

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the previous Abstract with the following redlined Abstract:

~~In one embodiment, a~~ A ~~system includes but is not limited to a host processor operably coupled with a broadcast-capable switch; a first broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the broadcast-capable switch; a second broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the broadcast-capable switch; and at least one of the first broadcast-packet-processing device and the second broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the host processor. In one embodiment, a~~ A ~~method includes but is not limited to directing at least one of a first broadcast-packet-processing device and a second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter an ignore-initial-address-assignment mode; directing the first broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode; transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the first broadcast-packet-processing device; directing the second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode; and transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the second broadcast-packet-processing device. In addition to the foregoing, other method embodiments are described in the claims, drawings, and text forming a part of the present application.~~